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JLA: Incarnations

Ostrander Rewrites History

No one can say that JLA fans don't have plenty of options! Some veteran fans have fond memories of the original all-star superteam that starred in the original ***JLA*** series from the 1960s through the early 1980s. Other fans may remember the latter days of that ***JLA*** title, when the team was comprised of several newcomers and less-er-known heroes. Enjoy some laughs with your heroics? Then you probably have a soft spot in your heart for the *J.M. DeMatteis-Keith Giffen* ***JLA*** run in the later 80s. Or perhaps you didn't make the team's acquaintance until the debut of the epic-scale heroic series by *Grant Morrison* and *Howard Porter*. Lotsa different JLAs to choose from, right?...

Not as *John Ostrander* sees it. In the seven-issue limited series ***JLA: Incarnations***, Ostrander (along with artists *Val Semeiks* and *Prentis Rollins*) explores the dynamic structure of the JLA, linking all those various rosters and approaches in one grand series that spotlights the League's importance in DC history.

How demanding was it to pull all these various JLAs into one tale? Ostrander describes the challenge as "enormous. We're not doing a history per se; Dan [editor *Dan Raspler*] likes to call it a 'snapshot' of that era, trying to give within the framework of a story some sense of what the league was *at that time*.

"We're not doing JLA history as JLA history according to the current DCU continuity, so that means re-interpreting some events. Some events have to be left out or subject to a mention only according to the *needs* of the *story* that we are telling. While each issue is the size of an annual, we're trying to do a lot and that doesn't give a lot of room. In some cases, it was easier to retcon a *new* adventure for that time period rather than try to find one from that time that fit."

While Ostrander plans to revisit key moments in JLA history, the changes in the team—and in the DC Universe as a whole—make it necessary for him to modify events somewhat. "For example, the original tale of how the original JLA broke up had them being disbanded by Aquaman following a Martian invasion. Well, according to *present* DCU continuity, J'Onn's people all died out long before. So we WILL see that story in issue four—but by necessity, some of it will change. How do we do it? Read the book," Ostrander adds with a grin.

Other modifications have to be made because of current DCU history; for example, the current historical take on the original JLA differs in membership featured in the Silver Age team. "It's a given that Wonder Woman didn't join until *after* ***Crisis on Infinite Earths***, so don't look for her until the JLI era," Ostrander explained. I *do* try to keep to who was in the League at the time; does that mean we'll be seeing Vibe, Gypsy, and Steel? Oh yes. But *Mark Waid* established who was in the first JLA in ***JLA: Year One***, so I think we start from there. According to continuity, Batman joins after that in a story that has never been told while, according to current myth, Superman stays as an honorary member. Both of these are addressed in issue two."

Given Ostrander's status as writer of the ***Martian Manhunter*** series, does that mean that J'Onn J'Onnz gets a larger role in JLA: Incarnations? "Not really. I'm fond of J'Onn, as you might guess, and we'll focus on him at the proper point—but this is about the League. J'Onn is a very respected member of the League and we'll show that, but only in context with the others."

Ostrander stresses that the focus of the series isn't on any one member; instead, the star of the book is "the JLA itself, I think." The central theme of ***JLA: Incarnations*** is the team, not the individual members. "What goes into it, why the members belong, why they leave, how it is almost a living thing itself. We focus on an individual member per issue and then allow the subplots that may occur to pull things forward. But each issue is also self contained. I really think these days that if you're asking people to shell out as much money for a book as we do, that it should deliver a full story in and of itself."

While Ostrander has written a variety of projects set in the DCU, including the acclaimed ***Spectre*** and ***Martian Manhunter*** series, ***JLA: Incarnations*** marks his "first big time use of the JLA. They've appeared as the League in the ***Martian Manhunter*** book but I haven't played with the League *as* the League." Does Ostrander hope to return to the JLA again in other projects? "I have an idea for some more JLA stuff, but I'd best focus on *this* before I try to get them to let me do more."

The first issue of the series takes readers back to the earliest days of the JLA, as the story centers on the team's efforts to overcome inevitable comparisons to the first DCU super-team, the Justice Society; the task proves difficult, though, when the JSA has to step in to assist after an attack by the mysterious sorcerer known as Wotan.

JLA: Incarnations #1, 48-page comic priced at $3.50, is scheduled for May 2nd release.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Mason Offers Reading Alternatives

There are some who complain that the comics field is too focused on superheroes and action-adventure—but publisher *Jeff Mason* takes a different approach. Rather than complaining, he and his company, Alternative Comics, offer fans a variety of comics projects, none of which are standard superhero/action-adventure series.

It's obvious that Mason isn't alone in his quest for alternative reading. "Honestly, each book I have published has been more and more financially viable—the indy and alternative titles have tremendous shelf life and reorder potential," Mason said. "***Quit Your Job***—a James Kochalka book originally published in 1998—still sells many dozens of copies each month at $6.95 each. I do think that the graphic novel/trade paperback/book sized indy or alternative title is definitely *the* growth item... Top Shelf, Highwater, Alternative Comics, Fantagraphics, Drawn & Quarterly, etc.—we're *all* doing extremely well with these fat little wonderful books."

2001 will see the release of several new "fat little wonderful books" from Alternative Comics—as well as a few standard-sized comics—beginning with *Graham Annable*'s ***Grickle*** (reviewed in ***CSN #717***). "***Grickle*** collects two dozen beautiful stories in which devilish comedy and eye-watering art enclose a rich, chocolatey center of sad poetry and bruised but intact innocence," Mason said. "Annable has been creating these stories for his own satisfaction concurrent with his commercial animation work, and it shows in their intimate, conversational tone and wholly personal outlook. The skills honed at his day job [Annable has worked for Chuck Jones, Disney, and LucasArts] are just as evident in the deft, fluid way he puts his stylish figures through their paces—it's like listening to the eloquent solo improvisations of a jazz musician who has sharpened his chops playing every night in the band." Grickle, a 128-page $14.95 trade paperback, is scheduled for April release.

Jen Sorenson returns with ***Slowpoke: Café Pompous***, a collection of alternative comic strips. "***Slowpoke*** tackles the absurdities of present-day American life with rib-tickling gusto," Mason said. "Uptight Mr. Perkins, jaded Little Gus, and horny Drooly Julie provide a witty commentary on the politics and culture of our times. Sorensen was nominated for the 1999 Friends of Lulu Kimberly A. Yale Award for Best New Talent for her first collection of ***Slowpoke*** strips." ***Slowpoke: Café Pompous*** debuts in May.

June brings the second issue of *James Kochalka*'s ***Peanutbutter & Jeremy***. Mason offered a summary of the storyline in this all-ages book: "Jeremy the sneaky old crow is getting tired of his old run-down nest. When he overhears Peanutbutter crying about getting fired, he decides to run a scam on the vulnerable little kitty cat. After all he's a clever old crow, and Peanutbutter is just a silly office kitten. Peanutbutter *may* be gullible—but Jeremy's scam is so over the top that it backfires."

June also sees the release of *Nick Bertozzi*'s ***The Masochists***, a 128-page collection that offers "a dramatic look at obsession, an examination of isolation, and a eulogy for three people slowly crushing everything good out of their lives," Mason said. "'Passing Out,' the first story in ***The Masochists***, delves into the torturous world of adolescent pecking orders in which a boy is forced into an act of self-humiliation. The simultaneous destructive and redemptive quality of music-making in 'U.V.Katastrophe' follows the central character on his journey out of an artistic dead-end and into his redemption, through a surreal rock concert. The rhythms of '5/4' are made up of the beats of compulsion self-mutilation and the very short distance between art and obsession. ***The Masochists*** is an unflinching look at human behavior and will sit well with those intrigued by the early humanist dramas of Fellini or Kurosawa."

Dean Haspiel, who illustrated the lead story in the latest ***American Splendor*** book from *Harvey Pekar* and Dark Horse, reveals his ***Opposable Thumbs*** in July. "***Opposable Thumbs*** promises to be the new leader in autobiographical storytelling," Mason said. "The first issue is a forty-eight page collection, culling *Dean Haspiel*'s best semi-autobiographical stories from the pages of ***Keyhole***, ***Minimum Wage***, ***Non***, ***The Expo Anthology***, and ***Dirty Stories***. Subsequent issues of ***Opposable Thumbs*** will present fresh and new semi-autobiographical stories."

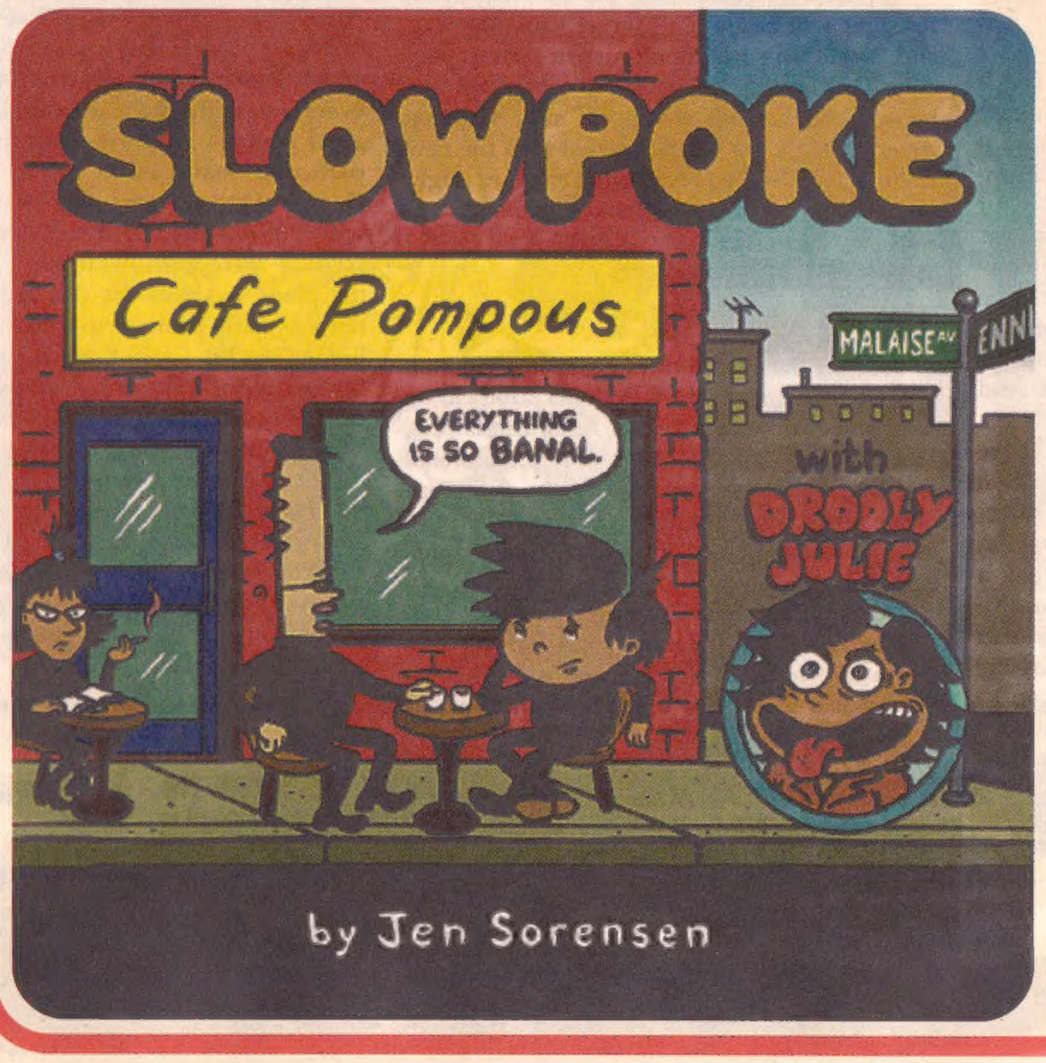
Sam Henderson's ***Magic Whistle*** is also slated for July release, with another new issue following in September. "*Sam Henderson* has just been nominated for a 2001 Harvey Award in two categories—Special Award for Humor for ***Magic Whistle***, and for Best Anthology for ***Nickelodeon Magazine*** published by Nickelodeon," Mason said. "Sam is the funniest writer in comics, hands down. That would be quite enough, thank you, but he also happens to be a shrewd observer of human nature, media cliches, pretension, and teen movies."

Jon Lewis ventures back into the ***True Swamp*** in late September with a new issue of the series that was picked by ***Time Magazine*** as one of the Ten Best Comics of 2000. "Jon's annual ***True Swamp*** series picks up where his 2000 issue left off in chronicling the life of Lenny, a self-absorbed but charming young frog who, when not evading the beaks, jaws and maws of the swamp's many predators, creates plenty of his own problems with his overactive mind," Mason said. "With lushly-rendered artwork, uproarious humor, intricately imagined settings, and striking, inventive page layouts, this new ***Swamp*** will envelop the reader even more thoroughly than the old one."

The fall will also see the release of ***Titans of Finance*** by *Josh Neufeld and R. Walker*, which Mason describes as "delivering America a swift kick in the business. Meet Ron Perelman, the man who made millions while presiding over the Mighty Marvel Comics train wreck. He's just one of the characters in this groundbreaking collection of true tales from the world of money and business... These stories were originally done for some financial trade journals and other places—lots of *really* heavy hitting stuff."

Mason is already working on plans for 2002, but isn't ready to announce those projects quite yet. "We are very fortunate that so many great cartoonists are creating comic books today; the market for well written comic books is presently the best it has been in years ,and is continually improving with more and more college-aged people reading non-traditional, non-superhero comics," Mason said.

by Wayne Lee & Cliff Biggers



Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Upcoming Comic

Can *Ang Lee*'s cinematic success with ***Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon***—which has made film history with its record-breaking box office numbers (the best ever for a subtitled film) and its critical success (including a coveted best-picture nomination)—translate to comic shop success as well? The folks at Art Asylum and Image Comics certainly hope so, because they're hard at work on action figures and a comic book based on the film.

Art Asylum is producing both the action figures and the adaptation of the film; according to the ICv2.com website, Art Asylum plans to include a chapter of the comic adaptation with each figure, while Image will compile the whole project into a single graphic novel. Plans call for both the action figures and the graphic novel to be released in October, to coincide with the video release of the film.

Jay Faerber, Noble-Minded Writer

Jay Faerber, well known for his work on DC's ***Titans***, turns his attention to another superhero team later this year—but superheroics won't be the focus of this new series.

Noble Causes, Faerber's first creator-owned series, is scheduled to debut this summer from Image Comics. Faerber jumpstarts things with a one-shot that paves the way for the ongoing series focusing on the Nobles, the world's most famous superhero family.

"They're kind of like the Kennedys, only they've got super-powers," Faerber explained. And just as the most fascinating aspect of the Kennedys lives took place out off the political stage, the most intriguing parts of ***Noble Causes*** involve the characters' personal lives, not their superheroic roles. "The most successful super hero comics have always contained generous soap opera elements, so I thought I'd take that mainstay one step further. Rather than have the continuing subplots as back-drops set against the villain-of-the-month, we're going to flip that, so that the characters' interpersonal conflicts are the focus of our book, with all the tired, old, world-in-danger stuff as background material."

For Faerber, part of the excitement of ***Noble Causes*** is the fact that it's his first creator-owned project. "I've been doing this for about three years now, and for awhile, I was completely content to just work on company owned characters—the characters I grew up reading. But over the past year, I've grown more and more restless. In an odd sort of way, there's a safety net when working for Marvel and DC. If a comic doesn't turn out the way you wanted it to, there's plenty of people you can blame it on—the editor, the editor-in-chief, the publisher, etc. You can rationalize away until your heart's content. But here, at Image, it's *all me*. Sure, I couldn't do any of this without my creative partners and the folks at Image, but if the finished product stinks, I've got no one to blame myself. I'm putting it all out there for everyone to see, performing without a net. And I've never been more excited."

Why Image? As it turns out, the book came about in large part because of a conversation with Anthony Bozzi, Image's marketing director and one of the most enthusiastic people in comics. According to Faerber, Bozzi "took a rather eclectic bunch of creators out to dinner at last year's Wizard World Convention, and over the course of the evening, I became obsessed with joining the Image team. After six months of hard work, here we are! I consider myself extremely fortunate to be working with Image, considering ultra-high caliber of talent they're associated with these days. I can only hope to be guilty by association."

Each issue will feature two stories, a lead tale that continues the ongoing story of the Nobles, and a self-contained backup story that focuses on one or two characters at a time, filling in their history and letting readers become acquainted with the characters' personalities. "The goal of these back-up tales is to give readers a better appreciation of the characters' modern-day interactions. They say that the past is but prologue to the future. In that spirit, the ***Noble Causes*** team is weaving some very entertaining and eventful history lessons, while providing hints of events to come through these fresh, in-the-moment shorts," *Anthony Bozzi*, Image Marketing Director, said.

Faerber is joined on the lead story by an artistic newcomer, *Billy Dallas Patton*, whom he found via an on-line talent search; *Damon Hacker* handles the inks. Backup stories will be illustrated by *Patrick Gleason* and *John Wycough*, while *Rob Schwager* handles the color work for both stories.

Noble Causes: First Impressions, the kickoff book, is scheduled for August release; the ongoing series follows in November.

Star Spangled Knights

Captain America, one of Marvel's oldest and most respected heroes, moving from the standard Marvel line to the edgier Marvel Knights? That's the news that *Joe Quesada* sprang on fans recently during an AOL chat.

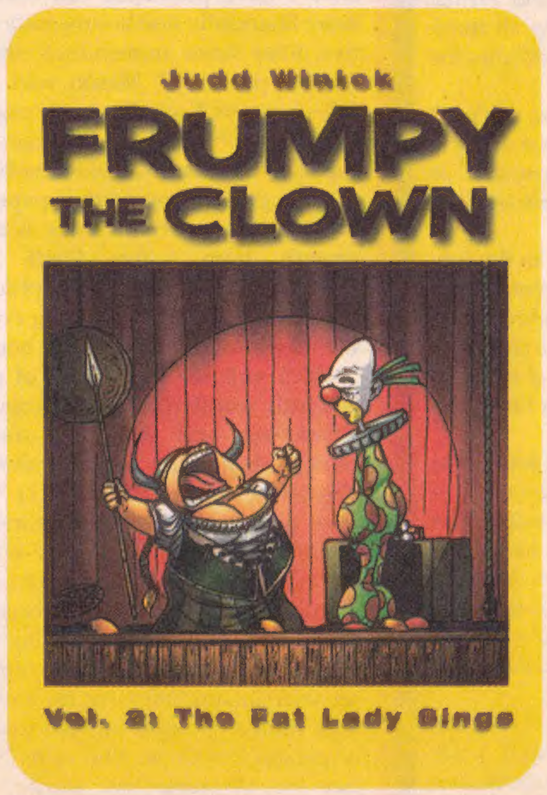
Quesada revealed that the Star Spangled Avenger will become a Marvel Knights title... and it will do so without current writer/penciller *Dan Jurgens*. (Jurgens has confirmed that he will be leaving the book after ***Captain America #48***.) He did not reveal who the new creative team would be, or what changes might take place when the book makes its move.

Oni's Still Clowning Around with Winick

Frumpy the Clown rides again! The creation of *Judd Winick*, Frumpy is a rather droll clown who moves in with a typical American family; while ***Frumpy*** was Winick's first professional creation, few fans have ever seen the entire run of the series, since ***Frumpy*** was originally published as a syndicated comic strip, not a comic book.

In the years since Frumpy's too-short run, Winick has made his mark with ***Barry Ween, Pedro & Me***, and ***Green Lantern*** (which he writes for DC). His many fans were excited to discover the offbeat ***Frumpy*** when Oni Press published their first trade paperback collection of the strips earlier this year; those fans will be doubly thrilled to hear that a second ***Frumpy the Clown*** collection, ***The Fat Lady Sings***, is coming up later this spring.

"It's getting harder and harder to find a comic reader *not* familiar with Judd's work," said Oni Press publisher *Joe Nozemack*. "We're happy to be bringing this early collection of comics to Judd's legion of fans."



"I couldn't be happier about seeing ***Frumpy*** back in print," Winick said. "To see all of my work on ***Frumpy*** collected into these two volumes is a childhood dream come true."

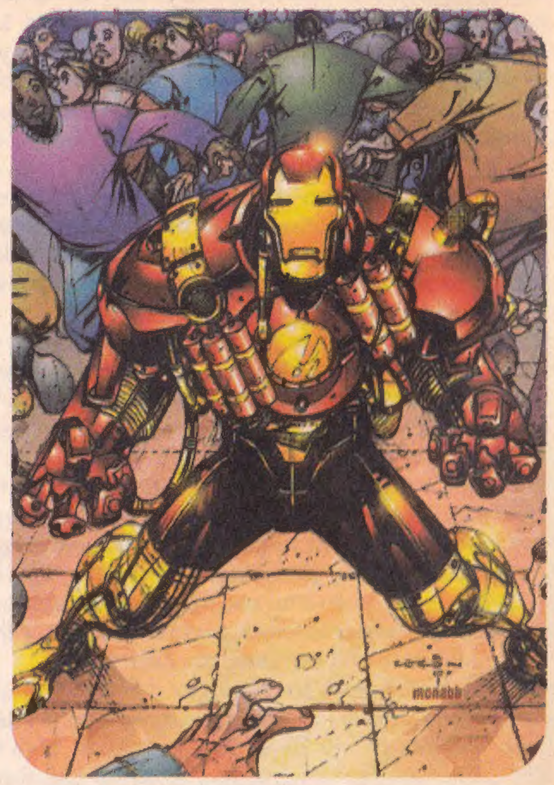
"***Frumpy*** follows in the grand tradition started by strips like ***Bloom County*** and ***Doonesbury***," Nozemack added, "While some of the strips comment on the culture or political climate they were written in, they never seem dated. ***Frumpy*** holds up as a very funny piece of Judd's past and we look forward to sharing the rest of the clown's adventures this May."

Frumpy the Clown Volume 2: The Fat Lady Sings, a 148-page trade paperback, is scheduled for May release.

Frank Discussion of Deadpool

Who's going to take on the quirky, unpredictable ***Deadpool*** after the departure of writers *Jimmy Palmiotti* and *Buddy Scalera*? *Frank Tieri*, known to Marvel fans for his work on ***Iron Man*** and ***Wolverine***, has answered that question for everyone with his announcement that "the good people at Marvel—editor *Mike Marts* in particular—have asked me to come onboard ***Deadpool*** for a special storyline that I must say will prove very significant to everybody`s favorite Merc-With-A-Mouth. I have to admit the plans we have for this four-issue arc are fairly big and promise to shake up Deadpool`s life quite a bit. I also think it`s safe to say that fans who don`t normally follow the book will definitely be interested in what we`re doing."

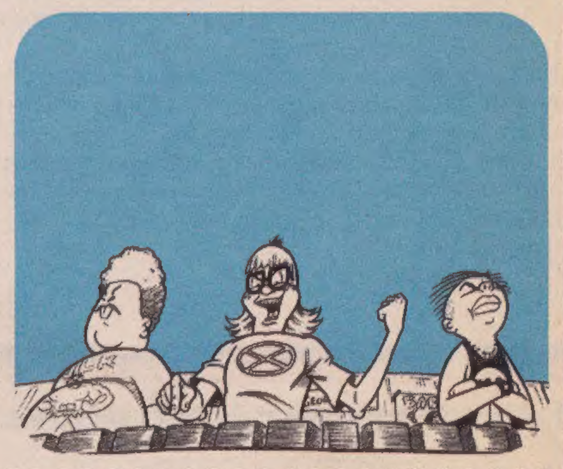
Does Tieri have any plans for changes in the zany character of Deadpool? "I`ve always seen him basically as this tragic figure who acts like a human cartoon character most of the time yet also kills people—so fans of *Joe Kelly*`s over-the-top humor as well as fans of some of the grittier elements the book has seen lately should be pleased."



Tieri did have bad news for fans of his run on the armored avenger, however. "Because of this project, as well as with big things that are going to be happening over in ***Wolverine*** and some other projects that I`m not at liberty to talk about yet, something had to give—and that something is ***Iron Man***. (Believe me, I wish there were more hours in the day). I`m afraid I wasn`t able to give *Tom [Brevoort*, new editor of the series ] the commitment that a book of ***Iron Man***`s status deserves. and so I`ve chosen to bow out instead. My departure is not immediate, however - my last issue will be #48, as I currently finish up a four-issue arc with *Bobbie [Chase]* and then follow it up with a three-issue arc with Tom. I do intend to go out with a bang though—the arc with Bobbie will introduce the new armor, and the arc with Tom will reveal once and for all why the armor became sentient in the first place."

Now Leaving Geeksville...

...Or, to be more accurate, ***Geeksville*** is now leaving *us*. Alas, the collaborative efforts of *Gary Sassaman* and *Rich Koslowki* are coming to an end with ***Geeksville #6***. Sassaman, creator of the ***Innocent Bystander*** segments of ***Geeksville***, said, "the decision to end the book is ours and not Image's. Although the book was successful from the standpoint of meeting Image`s sales requirements, it was not from our own personal view. We`re both moving on to other things... I hope, at some point in the near future, to do a second volume of ***The Collected Innocent***



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CSNsider

Bystander, which will collect every other missing ***IB*** story, including issues #5 & 6 and all the ***Geeksville*** stories. I'm also noodling around with a graphic novel—well, more of an illustrated book of short stories, in the vein of 'Drive West on Sunset' in ***Geeksville* 2.2.** So my comic life may not be dead yet. But self-publishing costs money—*lots* of it—and that's in short supply in my life right now."

As Sassaman and Koslowski's plans for the future firm up, ***CSNsider*** will bring you more news.

Here's Harvey!

The Harvey Awards Committee has announced the nominees for the 2001 Harvey Awards, recognizing outstanding achievements in comics in 2000. Named after the late comics genius Harvey Kurtzman, the Harveys are one of comics' oldest and most respected awards. They are the only industry awards both nominated and selected by the full body of creative comics professionals.

The winners of the Harvey Awards will be announced on April 27th at Pittsburgh Comicon—so if you hurry, you have just enough time to read all the nominees!

BEST WRITER

Dan Clowes for *Eightball* (Fantagraphics)
Desmond Devlin for *MAD Magazine* (EC Comics)
Warren Ellis for *Planetary* (Wildstorm/DC Comics)
Alan Moore for *Promethea* (ABC)
Joe Sacco for *Safe Area Gorazde* (Fantagraphics)

BEST CARTOONIST

Dan Clowes for *Eightball* (Fantagraphics)
Al Jaffee for *MAD Magazine* (EC Comics)
Tony Millionaire for *Sock Monkey* (Dark Horse Maverick)
Jeff Smith for *Bone* (Cartoon Books)
Chris Ware for *Acme Novelty Library* (Fantagraphics)

BEST ARTIST

Dave Cooper for *Weasel* (Fantagraphics)
Jaime Hernandez for *Penny Century* (Fantagraphics)
Herman Mejia for *MAD Magazine* (EC Comics)
P. Craig Russell for *The Ring of the Nibelung* (Dark Horse Maverick)
Chris Ware for *Acme Novelty Library* (Fantagraphics)
J.H. Williams for *Promethea* (ABC)

SPECIAL AWARD FOR HUMOR

Sergio Aragones (*Groo*, etc.)
Evan Dorkin (*Dork, World's Funnest*, etc.)
Sam Henderson (*Magic Whistle*, etc.)
Tony Millionaire (*Maakies, Sock Monkey*, etc.)
Bill Wray (*MAD Magazine*, etc.)

SPECIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PRESENTATION

Jimmy Corrigan *by Chris Ware, design by Chris Ware* (Pantheon)
Drawn & Quarterly, vol. 3, #1 *by various artists, design by Chris Ware & Chris Oliveros* (Drawn & Quarterly)
Little Lit *by various artists, design by Art Spiegelman & Chip Kidd* (Harper/Collins)
Maakies *by Tony Millionaire, design by Chip Kidd* (Fantagraphics)
Tales of Terror: The Complete EC Comics Companion *by Fred Von Bernewitz & Grant Geissman, design by Grant Geissman* (Gemstone/Fantagraphics)

BEST NEW SERIES

Atomics *by Mike Allred, edited by Jamie Rich* (AAA Pop)
Blue Monday *by Chynna Clugston-Major, edited by Jamie Rich* (Oni Press)
Castle Waiting *by Linda Medley* (Cartoon Books)
Jack Staff *by Paul Grist* (Dancing Elephant Press)
Luba's Comics and Stories *by Gilbert Hernandez, edited by Gary Groth* (Fantagraphics)
Powers *by Brian Michael Bendis & Michael Avon Oeming, edited by Brian Oeming* (Image)

BEST CONTINUING OR LIMITED SERIES

Acme Novelty Library *by Chris Ware, edited by Kim Thompson* (Fantagraphics)
Bone *by Jeff Smith* (Cartoon Books)
Promethea *by Alan Moore & J.H. Williams, edited by Scott Dunbier* (ABC)
Sock Monkey *by Tony Millionaire, edited by Phil Amara* (Dark Horse Maverick)
Weasel *by Dave Cooper, edited by Gary Groth* (Fantagraphics)

BEST SINGLE ISSUE OR STORY

Acme Novelty Library #14 *by Chris Ware* (Fantagraphics)
Drawn & Quarterly vol. 3, #1 *by various artists, edited by Chris Oliveros* (Drawn & Quarterly)
Penny Century #7 *by Jaime Hernandez* (Fantagraphics)
Shazam!: Power of Hope *by Paul Dini & Alex Ross* (DC Comics)
Superman & Batman: World's Funnest *by Evan Dorkin & various artists* (DC Comics)

BEST GRAPHIC ALBUM OF ORIGINAL WORK

Big Clay Pot *by Scott Mills, edited by Chris Staros* (Top Shelf)
Last Day in Vietnam *by Will Eisner, edited by Diana Schutz* (Dark Horse Maverick)
Monkey vs. Robot *by James Kochalka, edited by Chris Staros* (Top Shelf)
Safe Area Gorazde *by Joe Sacco, edited by Kim Thompson* (Fantagraphics)
Skibber Bee-Bye *by Ron Rege, Jr., edited by Tom Devlin* (Highwater Books)

BEST GRAPHIC ALBUM OF PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED WORK

Castle Waiting: The Lucky Road *by Linda Medley* (Cartoon Books)
The Collected Hutch Owens *by Tom Hart* (Top Shelf)
David Boring *by Dan Clowes, edited by Chip Kidd* (Pantheon)
Jimmy Corrigan *by Chris Ware, edited by Chip Kidd* (Pantheon)
Maakies *by Tony Millionaire, edited by Gary Groth* (Fantagraphics)

BEST ANTHOLOGY

Drawn & Quarterly vol. 3, #1 *edited by Chris Oliveros* (Drawn & Quarterly)
EXPO 2000 *edited by Tom Devlin, Chris Oarr, Christian Panas, Jeff Alexander, Karon Flage, Greg McElhatton & Charles Brownstein* (The Expo to benefit the CBLDF)
Little Lit *edited by Art Spiegelman & Francoise Mouly* (Harper/Collins)
Nickelodeon Magazine Comic Book *edited by Chris Duffy* (Nickelodeon)
Zero Zero *edited by Kim Thompson* (Fantagraphics)

BEST INKER

Charles Burns for *Black Hole* (Fantagraphics)
Dan Clowes for *Eightball* (Fantagraphics)
Mick Gray for *Promethea* (ABC)
Al Gordon for *Tom Strong* (ABC)
Jaime Hernandez for *Penny Century* (Fantagraphics)

BEST LETTERER

Dan Clowes for *Eightball* (Fantagraphics)
Todd Klein for *Castle Waiting* (Cartoon Books)
Galen Showman for *The Ring of the Nibelung* (Dark Horse Maverick)
Dave Sim for *Cerebus* (Aardvark-Vanaheim)
Chris Ware for *Acme Novelty Library* (Fantagraphics)

BEST COLORIST

Laura Allred for *Atomics* (AAA Pop)
Laura DePuy for *The Authority* (Wildstorm/DC Comics)
Lovern Kindzierski for *The Ring of the Nibelung* (Dark Horse Maverick)
Chris Ware for *Acme Novelty Library* (Fantagraphics)
Jim Woodring for *Frank* (Fantagraphics)

BEST SYNDICATED STRIP

Doonesbury *by Garry Trudeau*
Liberty Meadows *by Frank Cho*
Maakies *by Tony Millionaire*
Mutts *by Patrick McDonnell*
Underworld *by Kaz*

BEST BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL PRESENTATION

Comic Book Artist (TwoMorrows)
The Comics Journal (Fantagraphics)
MAD: Cover to Cover *by Frank Jacobs & The Usual Gang of Idiots* (Watson-Guptill)
Reinventing Comics *by Scott McCloud* (DC Comics)
Tales of Terror: The Complete EC Comics Companion *by Fred Von Bernewitz & Grant* Geissman (Gemstone/Fantagraphics)

BEST PRESENTATION OF FOREIGN MATERIAL

Blade of the Immortal *by Hiroaki Samura, edited by Mike Hansen* (Dark Horse)
Drawn & Quarterly vol. 3, #1 *by various artists, edited by Chris Oliveros* (Drawn & Quarterly)
The Extended Dream of Mr. D *by Max, edited by Chris Oliveros* (Drawn & Quarterly)
Lone Wolf & Cub *by Kazuo Koike & Goseki Kojima, edited by Mike Hansen* (Dark Horse)
The Nimrod *by Lewis Trondheim, edited by Kim Thompson* (Fantagraphics)

BEST DOMESTIC REPRINT PROJECT

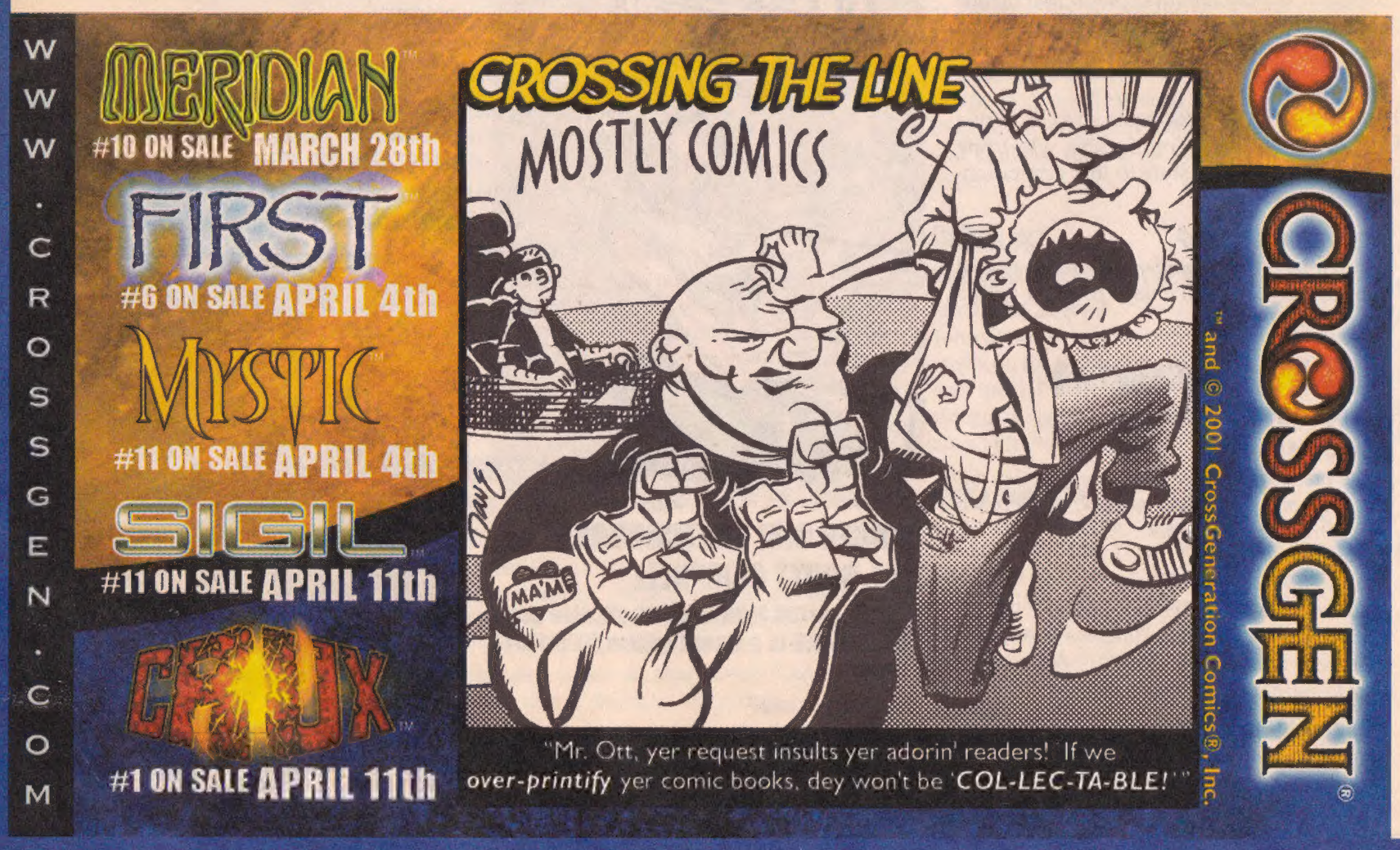
The Complete Crumb Comics *by R. Crumb, edited by Eric Reynolds* (Fantagraphics)
Little Annie Fanny *by Harvey Kurtzman & Will Elder, edited by Scott Allie* (Dark Horse)
The MAD Bathroom Companion *by The Usual Gang of Idiots, edited by Charles Kochman* (MAD Books)
Plastic Man Archives *by Jack Cole, edited by Dale Crain* (DC Comics)
The Spirit Archives *by Will Eisner, edited by Dale Crain* (DC Comics)

BEST NEW TALENT

Chynna Clugston-Major (*Blue Monday*, etc.)
Michael Avon Oeming (*Powers*, etc.)
Scott Mills (*Big Clay Pot*, etc.)
Takeshi Miyazawa (*Sidekicks*, etc.)
Michel Rabagliati (*Drawn & Quarterly, Paul in the Country*, etc.)

BEST COVER ARTIST

Charles Burns for *Black Hole* (Fantagraphics)
Adam Hughes for *Wonder Woman* (DC Comics)
Roberta Parada for *MAD Magazine* (EC Comics)
Glenn Fabry for *Preacher* (Vertigo/DC Comics)
Chris Ware for *Acme Novelty Library* (Fantagraphics)



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30

(Marvel FEB011553 $2.25; also available from Dynamic Forces in a signed edition, FEB011595 $29.99)

What's the Scoop?

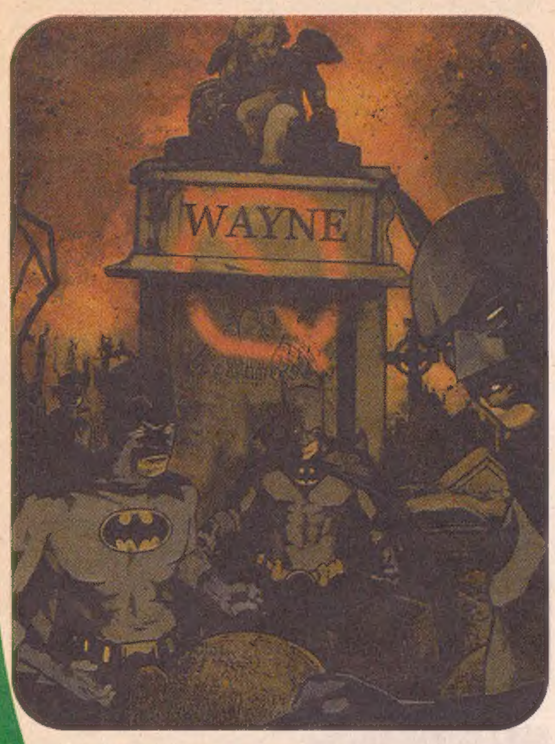
You got us! Marvel is relatively vague about where the storyline is going—but they're confident that the addition of a major writing talent to the mix is going to bring a lot of folks back into the web.

Who's Behind It?

J. Michael Straczynski, the ***Babylon 5*** creator whose already made his mark in comics with ***Rising Stars*** and ***Midnight Nation,*** does his magic at Marvel beginning with this issue, joining artist *John Romita Jr.* and cover artist *J. Scott Campbell* to give ***Amazing Spider-Man*** some ***Ultimate***-level buzz.

Why Should You Care?

Why should ***Ultimate*** hog the glory? It's about time that Spidey swung into the fan-fave spotlight again!



BATMAN: LEAGUE OF BATMEN #1

(DC FEB010396 $5.95; also available from DFE in a two-book signed set (FEB012017, $49.95)

What's the Scoop?

The Dark Knight dynasty continues as Tallant, the son of Bruce Wayne and Talia, creates a League of Batmen to continue the work of his father... and to negate the corruption that his grandfather, Ra's al Ghul, brought to the bat icon.

Who's Behind It?

Doug Moench,, Mark Bright, and *Romeo Tanghal* do the honors on this two-issue prestige-format sequel to ***Batman: Brotherhood of the Bat***—but the Elseworlds story is constructed so that you can enjoy it with no prior knowledge of the first series.

Why Should You Care?

Freed from continuity constraints, these Elseworlds miniseries often offer the most imaginative and innovative takes on the Batman legend.

CITIZEN V #1

(Marvel FEB011559 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Thought you knew your superhero history? What if there was a secret supergroup that had been waging a covert war for world stability? And what if it wasn't Planetary? Welcome to the world of Citizen V and the V-Battalion, a ***Thunderbolts*** spinoff that blends espionage, action, and a dash of ethical dilemma.

Who's Behind It?

Fabian Nicieza, ***T-Bolts'*** main man, is joined by *Michael Ryan* and *Sean Parsons*, who bring a hint of the Bagley style to this generation-spanning drama.

Why Should You Care?

A must-have for ***Thunderbolts*** fans, a great read for anyone who enjoys heroism with a sense of history.

CODENAME KNOCKOUT #0

(Vertigo/DC FEB010457 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?

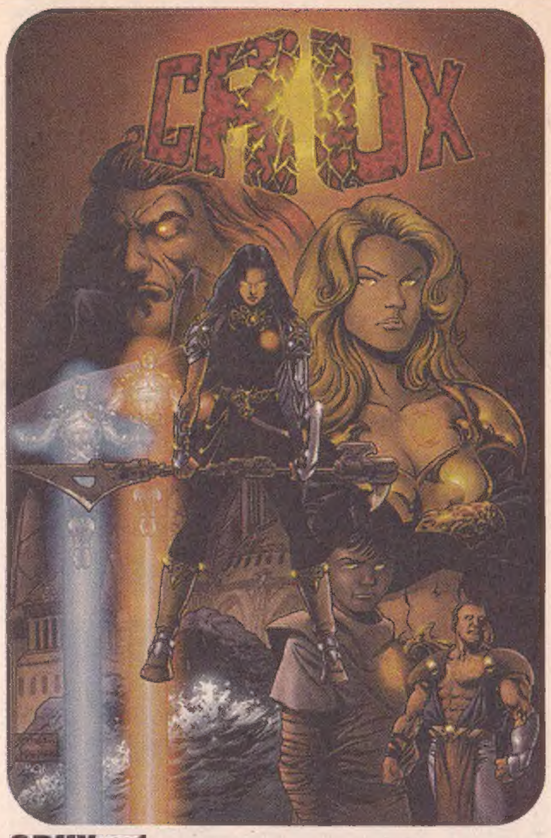
Take one part ***Danger Girl***, one part ***Sex and the City***, one part ***Queer as Folk***, add a pinch of whimsy, and serve *hot*.

Who's Behind It?

Novelist *Robert Rodi* contributes the words, *Louis Small Jr.* and *George Freeman* supply the pictures, and "good girl" uberartist *Joe Chiodo* supplies the cover paintings.

Why Should You Care?

Sexy adventure that refuses to take itself too seriously... sounds like something long overdue!...



CRUX #1

(CrossGen FEB011968 $2.95)

What's the Scoop?

Readers have learned all about the fantastic worlds of the CrossGen Universe... but what of Earth? Learn what place our world has in the CrossGen Cosmos... and learn what changes our world has undergone as the series begins.

Who's Behind It?

Mark Waid makes his CrossGen debut with this stunning new series; he's joined by artists *Steve Epting and Rick Magyar* for an all-star series that brings the CrossGen saga home... but home isn't what it used to be!

Why Should You Care?

CrossGen made history as the hottest new company of 2000; now they're bringing in even more big-league players to keep the momentum going into 2001.

DANGER GIRL SKETCHBOOK BY J. SCOTT CAMPBELL

(Cliffhanger/DC FEB010445 $6.95; also available from DFE in a signed edition (FEB012014, $19.95))

What's the Scoop?

Sketches, toy designs, behind-the-scenes art, and more... it may not be a new ***Danger Girl*** story, but a new ***Danger Girl*** *anything* is great news for fans.

Who's Behind It?

J. Scott Campbell. That pretty much says it all as far as ***Danger Girl*** fans are concerned, doesn't it?

Why Should You Care?

If you enjoy comics, you must have an appreciation of quality artwork—and while he may not be the best with deadlines, he is one of the best illustrators working in comics today.

DISCIPLES #1

(Image FEB011264 $2.95)

What's the Scoop?

The world can be a horribly dangerous place... but you don't even know some of the horrors that are out there. The magical protectors who make up the Disciples know just how much trouble the world is facing... and they know what they must do to protect the blissfully ignorant masses.

Who's Behind It?

The team isn't well known, but *Chris Dows, Colin Clayton, Laurence Campbell,* and *Larry Shupet* deliver a top-quality book with a Vertigo edge.

Why Should You Care?

With a storyline that mixes elements of ***X-Files*** and ***The Invisibles, The Disciples*** has real sleeper potential.

DOLLZ #1

(Image FEB011265 $2.95; also available from DFE with a limited edition variant cover (FEB012036, $12.95))

What's the Scoop?

The Dollz are the high-tech playthings of the

wealthy elite, a pleasure toy for the status-conscious... but are they simply humanoid possessions, or are they something else? Only their creator, the enigmatic Dollmaker, knows the truth about these Dollz...

Who's Behind It?

Randy Green, co-creator of ***Witchblade***, is joined by *Tom Sniegoski* and *Rick Ketcham* to present a thought-provoking sf tale that raises ***Blade-Runner***-esque questions about the essence of humanity.

Why Should You Care?

With Randy Green interior art and a quartet of variant covers by Green, Mike Wieringo, Keron Grant, and Ale Garza, these ***Dollz*** are gonna disappear fast!...

DRAW #1

(Two Morrows FEB012232 $5.95)

What's the Scoop?

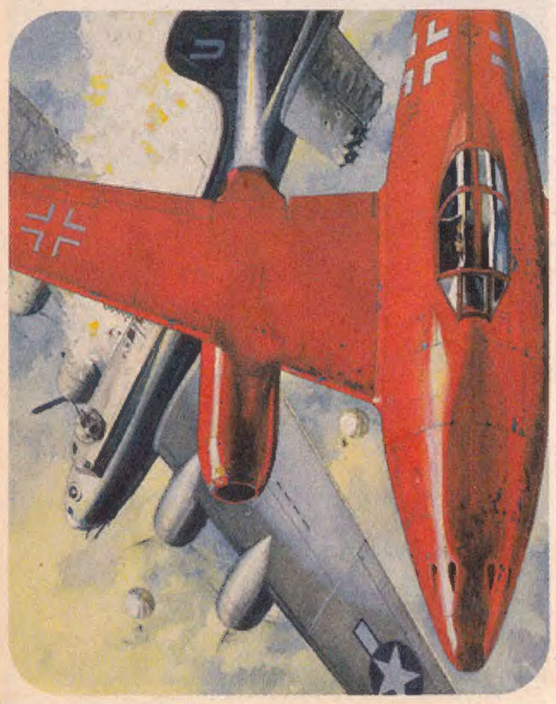
Here's the ultimate magazine for every fan who's ever dreamed of drawing comics... and for most of those who've seen that dream come true. Draw! is a "how-to" magazine that doesn't start with the basics; instead, it offers inside info regarding the skills needed to add the pretty pictures to the compelling words.

Who's Behind It?

The first issue features an assortment of must-read pieces by *Jerry Ordway, Dave Gibbons, Bret Blevins, John Costanza, Kieron Dwyer,* and others—but the real behind-the-curtains wizards of ***Draw!*** are editor *Mike Manley* and the folks at TwoMorrows publishing (you remember them—they're the ones responsible for the ***Jack Kirby Collector, Alter Ego, Comic Book Artist,*** and ***Comicology,*** four magazines that prove that sometimes it's as interesting to read *about* comics as it is to read comics).

Why Should You Care?

Even if you have no desire to illustrate comics, you'll have an all-new appreciation of the guys who supply the illustrations after you read this fascinating magazine—and you'll have a little more understanding of how they make it work visually.



ENEMY ACE: WAR IN HEAVEN #2

(DC FEB010410 $5.95)

What's the Scoop?

The most thought-provoking comic book war story in many years continues as Hans von Hammer begins to see his role as a German ace in a different light... and his doubts about the Nazi regime become more disquieting.

Who's Behind It?

Garth Ennis takes the Enemy Ace out of the skies of WWI and thrusts him into the horrors of WWII—and this time around, he's joined by legendary war comics illustrator *Russ Heath,* whose ultrarealistic work made DC *the* war comics publisher in the 1960s.

Why Should You Care?

This is quite possibly the best work of Ennis's career... how can you resist?

GREEN ARROW #3

(DC FEB010412 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?

Back in action, Oliver Queen is taking on dirty politicos and slimy drug dealers... just like old times! But will a recently-resurrected archer be any match for Aquaman's adversary, the Black Manta?

Who's Behind It?

Kevin Smith said that if DC gave him the chance, he could make Green Arrow a star—and he proved it by taking the first issue to the top of the charts!

Why Should You Care?

The first issue sold out from DC before it hit the stands, and the book was commanding high prices the weekend after its release. Don't be left out—latch onto the third issue while you can still find it! (Believe us, it's worth the effort!...)

GREEN LANTERN DRAGON LORD #1

(DC FEB010414 $4.95)

What's the Scoop?

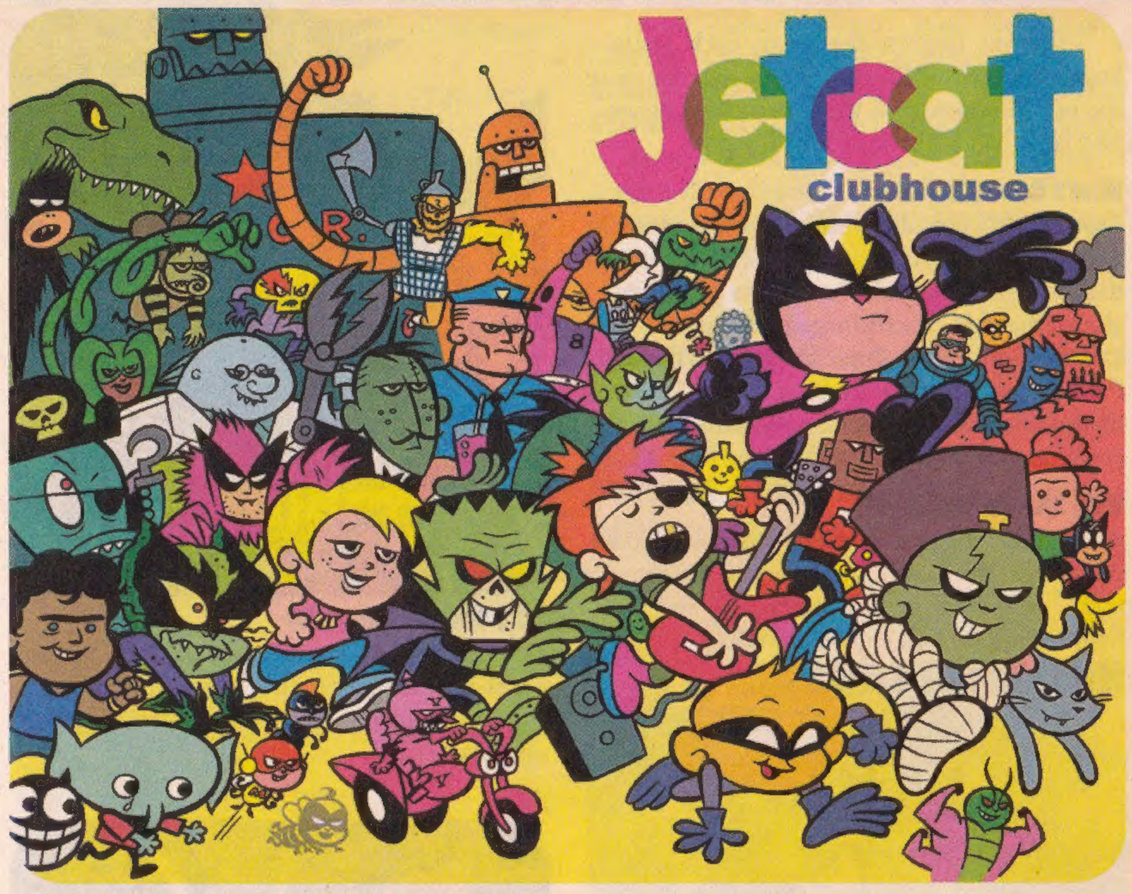
Meet the Earth's *first* Green Lantern in this in-continuity miniseries that presents the story of Jong Li, a mystic from the Last Temple of the Dragon Lords whose life is changed when an alien Green Lantern presents him with an amazing ring.

Who's Behind It?

Doug Moench and *Paul Gulacy,* who've done outstanding work together in ***Batman: Outlaws*** and the recent Scarecrow story arc in ***Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight,*** add a new chapter to DC history.

Why Should You Care?

Think of it as ***Crouching Lantern, Hidden Dragon***—a delightful blend of superheroics and Chinese drama by an A-team creative roster.



INCAL #1

(Humanoids FEB012081 $2.95)

What's the Scoop?

John Difool is well known to Moebius fans—but here, for the first time, American readers will meet Difool in his earlier days, as he struggles against riots and poverty in the days before Presidential Cloning.

Who's Behind It?

Alexandro Jodorowsky, who partnered with *Moebius* for the ***Incal*** run reprinted by Marvel in the 1980s, helms the project; the art is supplied by Moebius protege *Zoran Janjetov,* while *José Ladronn* does the cover honors for the first three issues.

Why Should You Care?

Now American fans can enjoy the full story of ***Incal***—including the Moebius chapters, which will be given a state-of-the-art recoloring for this series.

JADE #1

(Chaos! FEB011897 $2.99; also available in a premium edition (FEB011900, $9.99), a red foil cover edition (FEB012005 $12.95), and a signed red foil edition (FEB012006, $29.99))

What's the Scoop?

Crime wars take a magical turn when Jade, the leader of a supernatural crime cartel, begins her battle against her fellow crime lords as well as those who hope to use the latest technology to shut her down.

Who's Behind It?

Tom Sniegoski and *Christopher Golden* introduce the world to Chaos!'s latest bad girl, working with ***10th Muse*** artist *Ken Lashley* to pit good-guy technology against criminal necromancy.

Why Should You Care?

It's the sort of bad girl story that Chaos! does best, but the crime angle takes the story into *Darkness* territory.

JETCAT CLUBHOUSE #1

(Oni FEB012111 $3.25)

What's the Scoop?

Everyone's favorite eight-year-old superheroine is back in action! Of course, it's tough doing war with giant robots when you're also trying to do well in school, watch your favorite television show, and spend a little time kicking back in your secret clubhouse...

Who's Behind It?

Jay Stephens brings a childlike sense of wonder to this delightful tale of a super-powered girl and her friends.

Why Should You Care?

It's the sort of superhero life you dreamed of when you were a kid, told with a Jay Stephens' make-it-look-easy charm.

LEGION WORLDS #1

(DC FEB010423 $3.95)

What's the Scoop?

What was the rest of the Legion up to while the eleven missing Legionnaires were doing their ***Lost-in-Space*** thing? You'll find out in this six-parter that takes you to

a different Legion planet in each issue—beginning with "Earth," where we see how the world copes with the loss of the Legion... and how M'Onel tries to fill the gap.

Who's Behind It?

Dan Abnett and *Andy Lanning*, maestros of ***Legion Lost***, bring you the rest of the story; they've enlisted a talented roster of artists to share the fun, including *Yvel Guichet* and *Dexter Vines* (who illustrate the first issue), *Paul Rivoche*, *Duncan Rouleau*, *Kilian Plunkett*, *Steve Dillon*, and *John Cassaday* (who does the cover art for all six issues).

Why Should You Care?

At long last, Legion fans will learn what happened to the team members who *weren't* lost... and the groundwork for the new Legion will be laid in these pages.

MINISTRY OF SPACE #1

(Image FEB011273 $2.95; also available from DFE signed by Warren Ellis and Chris Weston (FEB011323, $49.99))

What's the Scoop?

Remember those German rocket scientists who jump-started the space program for the US in the post-war years? Well, in this series they did it for Great Britain instead, and sixty years later, Her Majesty's Spaceships sail the inky seas of space.

Who's Behind It?

Warren Ellis, comics' hottest writer, is joined by *Chris Weston*—the artist who made ***Enemy Ace: War in Heaven*** the most visually stunning war book anyone's published in years—and ***Authority*** colorist *Laura DePuy* for a series unlike anything Ellis has done before...

Why Should You Care?

Alternate-history sf at its most thought-provoking, produced by a creative team that *really* knows how to provoke thought!

OBERGEIST #1

(Image FEB011298 $2.95)

What's the Scoop?

Jurgen Steinholtz, Nazi war criminal, undertakes an amazing quest for atonement after his life is transformed by a Jewish man with second sight.

Who's Behind It?

Dan Jolley, *Tony Harris*, and *Ray Snyder*, whose earlier projects starring Dr. Strange and the JSA elicited raves from fans, launch the Minotaur imprint with this series that delves into the darkness of the human soul.

Why Should You Care?

Obergeist was so controversial that DC took a last-minute pass on the series; now you can see for yourself what that controversy was all about.

STAR WARS: JEDI VS SITH #1

(Dark Horse FEB010013 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Dark Horse takes us back a long, long time ago in a galaxy far, far away for a story that explores the essence of the Jedi/Sith conflict.

Who's Behind It?

Darko Macan, *Ramon F. Bachs*, and *Raul Fernandez* landed this plum assignment... the lucky stiffs!

Why Should You Care?

Now this is the sort of story that George Lucas *should* have done in ***Star Wars Episode One***...

Start with a Germ of an Idea...

SUPERMAN #169

(DC FEB010403 $2.25)

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #591

(DC FEB010404 $2.25)

SUPERMAN THE MAN OF STEEL #113

(DC FEB010405 $2.25)

ACTION COMICS #778

(DC FEB010406 $2.25)

SUPERMAN: INFESTATION COLLECTION (SIGNED BY MARV WOLFMAN)

(DFE FEB012011 $69.99)

What's the Scoop?

A sentient cosmic virus has destroyed planet after planet... and now it's Earth-bound.

Even worse, Lois Lane has been assimilated into the deadly infection!

Who's Behind It?

Guest writer *Marv Wolfman*, fan-fave co-creator of ***Crisis on Infinite Earths***, unites with penciller *Paco Medina*, inkers *Juan Vlasco* and *Walden Wong*, and (making his DC debut) cover artist *Dale Keown* for a special done-in-one-month four-parter.

Why Should You Care?

2001's been a banner year for Superman so far, with the now-it-can-be-told revamp of the Man of Steel's origin followed by his trip to Krypton; now DC keeps the momentum going with a story arc that marks Marv Wolfman's first major work for DC in way too many years.

TANGLED WEB: THE THOUSAND #1

(Marvel FEB011556 $2.99; also available from DFE in a signed edition (FEB011596, $39.99))

What's the Scoop?

Spider-Man versus... a stalker? This isn't just another fan—instead, Spidey's secret admirer has actually figured out how Spider-Man got his powers... and has tried to recreate the experiment on his own. Things didn't go exactly the way he had envisioned, though...

Who's Behind It?

Garth Ennis and *John McCrea*, creators of ***Hitman*** and ***Hulk Smash***, turn their attentions to Marvel's webslinger in the first story arc of this series that lets comics' hottest writers and artists play in the Spidey sandbox.

Why Should You Care?

Garth Ennis writing Spider-Man? Who can resist?

TENTH: RESURRECTED #1

(Dark Horse FEB010015 $2.99; also available from DFE in an alternate cover edition, both unsigned (FEB010017, $695) and signed by Tony Daniel (FEB010018, $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

Esperanza's dead... but she's getting better! And that's just the beginning of the weirdness as ***The Tenth*** makes the move to Dark Horse.Monsters, conspiracies, heroics, intrigue, a touch of romance—it's all in here!

Who's Behind It?

Tenth creator *Tony Daniel* masterminds the series; he's joined by *Romano*, who supplies the visuals.

Why Should You Care?

With ***Silke*** already a sleeper hit for Daniel and Dark Horse, ***Tenth: Resurrected*** has a built-in audience eager to see Daniel return to his most popular creation.

Overlooked Sizzler of the Month: The Book You Should Be Reading

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER: WILLOW & TARA SPECIAL

(Dark Horse FEB010019 $2.99; also available in a foil cover edition, both unsigned (FEB010021, $10.00) and signed (FEB010022, $19.99))

Dark Horse's ***Buffy*** and ***Angel*** licensed books have consistently emulated the quality and wit of the series that inspired them, but this time, they go even further: this oneshot is co-written by *Amber Benson*, the actress who plays Tara. And when it comes to telling tales of relationships between two women, there's no one much more capable than *Terry Moore*, the masterful creator of ***Strangers in Paradise*** who supplies the visuals for this special book. *Christopher Golden*, author of ***Buffy*** comics, novels, and reference books, completes the creative team. The story, which focuses on the witchcraft subculture of Sunnydale, is sure to click with fans of the series—and it's a well-done introduction to one corner of Buffy's world for those who've loved Moore's ***SiP*** work but have never sampled ***BtVS*** before.

Cool Collections

(April's Best Book Offerings)

AGE OF BRONZE VOL 1: A THOUSAND SHIPS TP/HC Image FEB011246/47 $19.95/$49.95

208-page compilation of Eric Shanower's epic retelling of the Iliad

AMAZING WORLD CARMINE INFANTINO REVISED DLX SC/HC Vanguard FEB012172/73 $19.95/$29.95

Features additional anecdotes from Infantino's associates

ANGEL: EARTHLY POSSESSIONS TP 4/18 Dark Horse JAN010028V3 $9.95

While attempting to drive a demon out of a possessed lawyer, Angel is given a well-timed hand by Father Noe, an excommunicated priest

AVENGERS: SUPREME JUSTICE TP 4/25 Marvel JAN011536 $17.95

Featuring the return of the Squadron Supreme and the "Live Kree or Die" story arc from Avengers, Iron Man, Captain America, Quicksilver, and Avengers 1998 Annual

AVENGERS: ULTRON UNLIMITED TP 4/11 Marvel JAN011534 $14.95

Reprinting Avengers #s 19-22 plus the zero issue by Kurt Busiek, George Perez, and Al Vey

BATTLE GODS: WARRIORS OF THE CHAAK TP 4/11 Dark Horse JAN010024V3 $19.95

Featuring 240 pages of mighty warriors, exotic locales, professional jealousies, personal vendettas, Mexican wrestling, street fights, illegal motorcycle races, Aztec zombies, and a Mayan apocalyptic legend, all told by Francisco Ruiz Velasco

BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL: HEART OF DARKNESS TP 4/18 Dark Horse JAN010029V3 $16.95

Rin and her bodyguard, the immortal swordsman Manji, visit the headquarters of the mysterious Akagi assassins - led by the beautiful and deadly Hyakurin - who are out for vengeance against the Itto-Ryu

BOX OFFICE POISON COMPLETE TP Top Shelf FEB012168 $29.95

Massive 608-page compilation of the human interest series by Alex Robinson

CRACKED GUIDE TO MOVIES TP NBM FEB012102 $8.95

96-page compilation of movie satires and film-inspired wackiness

DARKMINDS VOL 1: PARADOX TP Image FEB011255 $19.95

Reprinting Darkminds #0, #1/2, and #1 thru #8 cover to cover in their entirety along with a complete cover art gallery

DON'T CALL ME STUPID GN Fantagraphics FEB012036 $12.95

A collection of Steven Weissman's hilariously charming stories about a gang of precocious children

ELFQUEST READERS COLLECTION VOL 9D: CHIEFS HOWL SC 4/18 Warp FEB012211 $12.95

This volume features stories originally published in Elfquest - Blood of Ten Chiefs #s 12-20

GREEN LANTERN ARCHIVES VOL 3 HC 4/25 DC FEB010416 $49.95

Reprinting Green Lantern #s 14-21, including the first appearances of Sonar and Star Sapphire

HECTIC PLANET: BOOK 3 YOUNG AND RECKLESS Amaze Ink/Slave Labor FEB011799 $10.95

96-page trade paperback collecting Hectic Planet # 5 and #6, as well as the Vroom Socko: Paid in Full one-shot

ITS A GOOD LIFE IF YOU DON'T WEAKEN HC D&Q FEB011987/88 $24.95/$34.95

Seth's quest for meaning in the life and work of an almost-forgotten cartoonist is offered again in both trade paperback and hardcover

JOKER/MASK TP 4/25 Dark Horse JAN010025V3 $11.95

What happens when Gotham City's Clown Prince of Crime discovers a thousand-year-old relic that will make him invincible? Henry Gilroy, Ramon F. Bachs, and Howard Shum know!...

MARTIAN SUCCESSOR NADESICO BOOK 2 CPM FEB011954 $15.95

METROPOL COLLECTED EDITION VOL 2 TP 4/11 Sorhenn FEB012151 $11.95

More enigmatic sf drama by Ted McKeever; this series reprints the contents of Metropol and Metropol AD, plus pages from McKeever's sketchbooks

MYSTIC VOL 1 TP 4/18 CrossGen FEB011972 $19.95

Reprinting Mystic #s 1-7

NEVERMEN TP 4/4 Dark Horse JAN010026V3 $14.95

This definitive collection of the four-issue series also includes the hard-to-find Nevermen tales from Dark Horse Presents, in color for the first time, courtesy of Phil Amara, Guy Davis, and Dave Stewart

PAKKINS LAND VOL 2: QUEST FOR KINGS TP Pakkins FEB012117 $15.95

128-page compilation by Gary and Rhoda Shipman includes revisions and all-new pages

PREACHER VOL 9: ALAMO TP 4/4 Vertigo/DC FEB010467 $17.95

Reprinting the final Preacher story arc from issues 59-66

QUOTABLE SANDMAN HC 4/18 Vertigo/DC FEB010468 $9.95

This unique mini-sized hardcover contains the most memorable quotes from Neil Gaiman's Sandman

SAILOR MOON POCKET MIXX GN VOL 9 TokyoPop FEB012166 $9.95

Sailors from all nine planets battle the evil Master Pharaoh 90 to save the Earth and the soul of one young girl

SAINT TAIL POCKET MIXX VOL 1 TokyoPop FEB012165 $9.95

By day, Meimi Haneoka is an ordinary student at St. Paulia's Catholic school, but by night, she pulls off fantastic heists as the mysterious thief Saint Tail

SIGIL VOL 1 TP 4/25 CrossGen FEB011973 $19.95

Reprinting Sigil #s 1-7

SOUNDTRACK: SHORT STORIES 1990-1996 TP Fantagraphics FEB012041 $12.95

Collects the best of Jessica Abel's self-published Artbabe series

SPIRIT ARCHIVES VOL 4 HC 4/11 DC FEB010435 $49.95

The comprehensive Will Eisner Spirit reprint continues; this volume offers Spirit Sections from January 4 to June 28, 1942

STAR TREK: OTHER REALITIES TP 4/11 WildStorm/DC FEB010448 $14.95

Featuring Star Trek: All of Me, STAR TREK DS9: N-Vector, and Star Trek: New Frontier—Double Time in one 192-page volume

STARMAN VOL 6 TO REACH THE STARS TP 4/25 DC FEB010428 $17.95

Jack Knight treks to the stars in this volume that reprints Starman #s 39-45 and Shazam! #36

STEVE DITKO'S STATIC TP Snyder FEB012331 $15.00

Compiling the last fully developed superhero series by Steve Ditko

TOP TEN BOOK ONE TP 4/18 ABC/DC FEB010453 $14.95

Reprinting the first seven issues of the Alan Moore/Gene Ha/Zander Cannon series that stars the policemen of Precinct Ten in the super-powered city of Neopolis

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN TP 4/25 Marvel JAN011547 $14.95

Reprinting the first seven issues of the sold-out series

VIDEO GIRL AI VOL 3: RECALL TP 4/18 Viz FEB012183 $15.95

Ai's creator wants her back in the video world for good—and the only way for Yota to save her is to enter the video world himself

WILL EISNER'S SHOP TALK TP 4/25 Maverick/Dark Horse JAN010017V3 $19.95

Featuring interviews with Jack Kirby, Joe Simon, Gil Kane, Joe Kubert, Jack Davis, Neil Adams, C.C. Beck, Milton Caniff, Gill Fox, Harvey Kurtzman, and distribution guru Phil Seuling, all conducted by Will Eisner!

Molten Merchandise

(April's Collectible Highlights)

BAT SIGNAL PROP 4/11 DC Direct OCT000615 $149.95

8" tall x 6.7" wide rotating Bat-Signal prop which lights up to form the silhouette of a Bat.

BATGIRL MEDIUM STATUE 4/25 DC Direct NOV000583 $99.95

Striking statue based on designs by Ty Templeton; a perfect complement to the Harley Quinn statue

BATMAN BY ALEX ROSS POSTER 4/25 DC Direct JAN010470 $7.95

Featuring the image from the back cover of Batman: War on Crime

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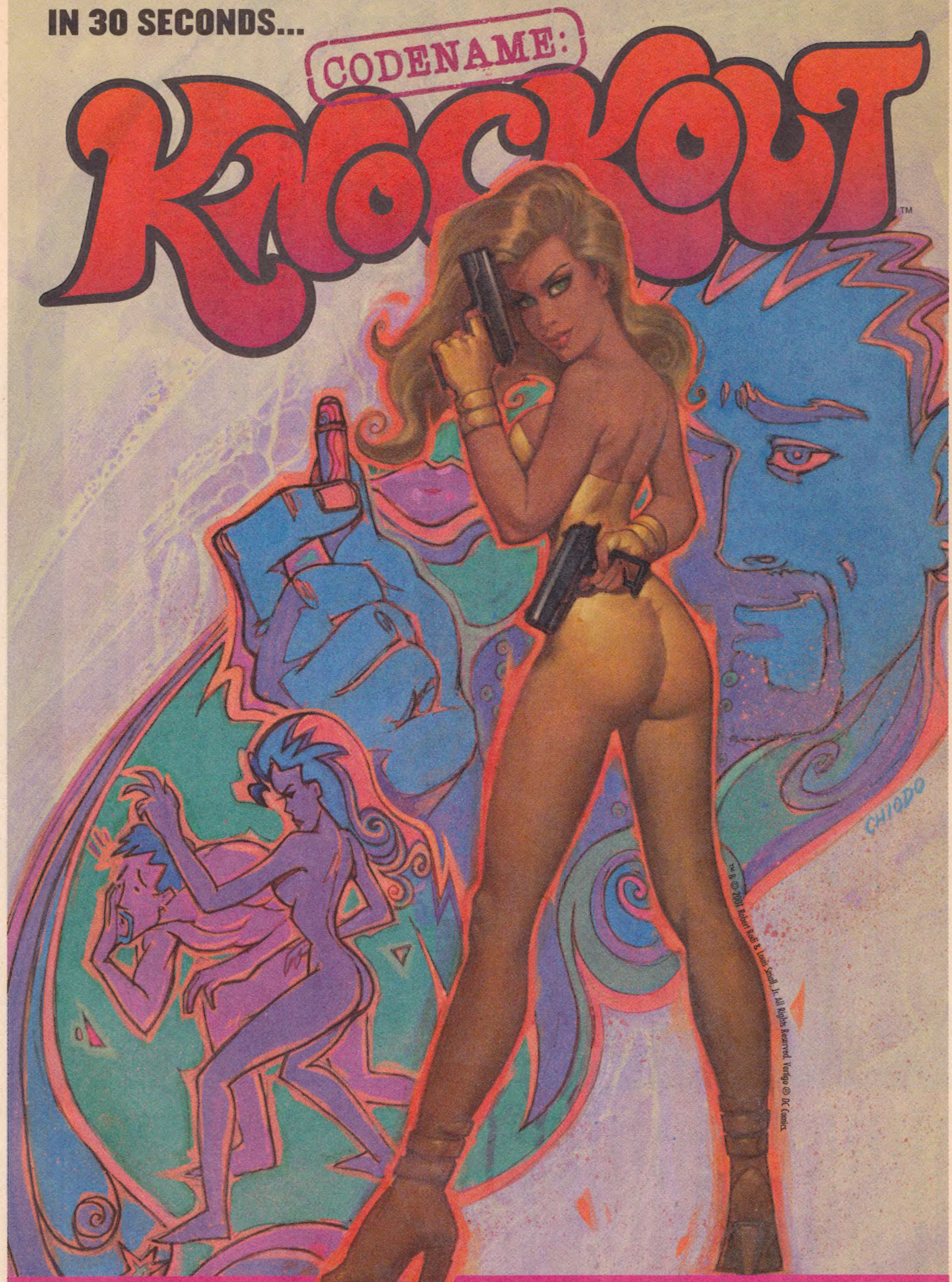

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